This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1   Claim 1 (currently amended) A video telephone comprising:

2   image pickup means which ~~pickups~~ captures ~~a photogenic~~ an image of a

3   subject and generates a pickup image signal;

4   pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup signal and

5   outputs a pickup image signal;

6   processing means for executing one or more image modification processing

7   techniques ~~image modification processing means~~ which subjects the pickup image

8   signal to an image modification processing to produce a modified image signal for

9   protecting a portrait right;

10   image signal selection means which selects one of the pickup image signal

11   from the pickup signal processing means and ~~a~~ the modified image signal ~~from the~~

12   ~~image modification processing means~~; and

13   communication means which transmits an output image signal from the image

14   signal selection means.

1   Claim 2 (currently amended) A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein

2   the image signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from

3   the processing means ~~image modification processing means~~ at a time of starting

4   communication, and thereafter selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the

5   pickup signal processing means in response to an operational instruction from a

6   calling party.

1   Claim 3 (currently amended) A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein

2   the image signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from

3   the processing means ~~image modification processing means~~ at a time of starting

4   communication, and thereafter selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the

5   pickup signal processing means in response to confirmation of authentication of a

6   partner side of a calling party.

1   Claim 4 (currently amended) A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein

2   the processing means ~~image modification processing means~~ performs a defocusing

3   processing for placing an image based on the pickup image signal in a defocused

4   state.

1   Claim 5 (currently amended) A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein

2   the <u>processing means</u> ~~image modification processing means~~ performs a deforming

3   processing for converting two-dimensional positional information of pixels in the

4   pickup image signal at an arbitrary ratio.

1   Claim 6 (currently amended) A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein

2   the <u>processing means</u> ~~image modification processing means~~ performs a resolution

3   reducing processing for reducing a resolution of the pickup image signal.

1   Claim 7 (currently amended) A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein

2   the <u>processing means</u> ~~image modification processing means~~ performs a tone

3   resolution reducing processing for reducing a tone resolution of the pickup image

4   signal.

1   Claim 8. (new) A video telephone comprising:

2   image pickup means which captures an image of a subject and generates a

3   pickup signal;

4   pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup signal and

5   outputs a pickup image signal;

6   image modification processing means which subjects the pickup image signal

7   to an image modification processing for protecting a portrait right, said image

8   modification including one or more of defocusing processing, deforming processing,

9   resolution reducing processing, tone resolution reducing processing, diffusing image

10   processing, transverse blurring processing, and contour extracting processing;

11   image signal selection means which selects one of the pickup image signal

12   from the pickup signal processing means and a modified image signal from the

13   image modification processing means; and

14   communication means which transmits an output image signal from the image

15   signal selection means.

1   Claim 9 (new) A video telephone according to claim 8, wherein the image

2   signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image

3   modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter

4   selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing

5   means in response to an operational instruction from a calling party.

1   Claim 10 (new) A video telephone according to claim 8, wherein the image

2   signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image

3   modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter

4   selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing

5   means in response to confirmation of authentication of a partner side of a calling

6   party.

1   Claim 11 (new) A video telephone comprising:

2   image pickup means which captures an image of a subject and generates a

3   pickup signal;

4   pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup signal and

5   outputs a pickup image signal;

6   image modification processing means which subjects the pickup image signal

7   to defocusing processing for placing an image based on the pickup image signal in a

8   defocused state;

9   image signal selection means which selects one of the pickup image signal

10   from the pickup signal processing means and a modified image signal from the

11   image modification processing means; and

12   communication means which transmits an output image signal from the image

13   signal selection means.

1   Claim 12 (new) A video telephone according to claim 11, wherein the image

2   signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image

3   modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter

4   selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing

5   means in response to an operational instruction from a calling party.

1   Claim 13 (new) A video telephone according to claim 11, wherein the image

2   signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image

3   modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter

4   selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing

5   means in response to confirmation of authentication of a partner side of a calling

6   party.

1   Claim 14 (new) A video telephone comprising:

2   image pickup means which captures an image of a subject and generates a

3   pickup signal;

4   pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup signal and

5   outputs a pickup image signal;

6   image modification processing means which subjects the pickup image signal

7   to deforming processing for converting two-dimensional positional information of

8   pixels in the pickup image signal at an arbitrary ratio;

9   image signal selection means which selects one of the pickup image signal

10   from the pickup signal processing means and a modified image signal from the

11   image modification processing means; and
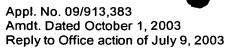
12   communication means which transmits an output image signal from the image

13   signal selection means.

1   Claim 15 (new) A video telephone according to claim 14, wherein the image

2   signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image

3   modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter

4   selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing

5   means in response to an operational instruction from a calling party.

1   Claim 16 (new) A video telephone according to claim 14, wherein the image

2   signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image

3   modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter

4   selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing

5   means in response to confirmation of authentication of a partner side of a calling

6   party.

1   Claim 17 (new) A video telephone comprising:

2·   image pickup means which captures an image of a subject and generates a

3   pickup signal;

4   pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup signal and

5   outputs a pickup image signal;

6.   image modification processing means which subjects the pickup image signal

7   to resolution reducing processing for reducing a resolution of the pickup image

8   signal;

9   image signal selection means which selects one of the pickup image signal

10   from the pickup signal processing means and a modified image signal from the

11   image modification processing means; and

12   communication means which transmits an output image signal from the image

13   signal selection means.

1   Claim 18 (new) A video telephone according to claim 17, wherein the image

2   signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image

3   modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter

4   selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing

5   means in response to an operational instruction from a calling party.

1   Claim 19 (new) A video telephone according to claim 17, wherein the image

2   signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image

3   modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter

4   selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing

5   means in response to confirmation of authentication of a partner side of a calling

6   party.

1   Claim 20 (new) A video telephone comprising:

2   image pickup means which captures an image of a subject and generates a

3   pickup signal;

4   pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup signal and

5   outputs a pickup image signal;

6   image modification processing means which subjects the pickup image signal

7.   to tone resolution reducing processing for reducing a tone resolution of the pickup

8   image signal;

9   image signal selection means which selects one of the pickup image signal

10   from the pickup signal processing means and a modified image signal from the

11.   image modification processing means; and

12   communication means which transmits an output image signal from the image

13   signal selection means.

1   Claim 21 (new) A video telephone according to claim 20, wherein the image

2   signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image

3   modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter

4   selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing

5   means in response to an operational instruction from a calling party.

1   Claim 22 (new) A video telephone according to claim 20, wherein the image

2   signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image

3   modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter

4   selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing

5   means in response to confirmation of authentication of a partner side of a calling

6   party.

1   Claim 23 (new) A video telephone according to claim 1 wherein said image

2   modification processing is accomplished using a multi-purpose CPU or a digital

3   signal processor.

1   Claim 24 (new) A video telephone according to claim 1 wherein said

2   processing means is a digital signal processor.

1   Claim 25 (new) A video telephone according to claim 1 wherein said

2   processing means is a multi-purpose CPU.